GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:83
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Internet Penetration
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether low internet penetration in India has adversely affected Digital India initiative and less cash economy and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the percentage of internet service users in India, both mobile and landline, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the need to augment telecom infrastructure so as to provide internet services in villages, small towns and cities;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of the internet accessed in villages, towns and cities, State-wise; and

(e) whether the Government is taking steps to make available quality internet facilities through various ways to enable the people to easily take part in the digitized world and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.83 FOR 8TH FEBRUARY, 2017 REGARDING "INTERNET PENETRATION".

(a) Internet connectivity is being strengthened for less cash economy. Low internet penetration can affect Digital India initiatives. In the absence of internet facility to the users, e-Governance services are not accessible to them.

(b) Service Area-wise details of the percentage of the internet subscribers including both mobile and landline, as on 30.09.2016, as reported by Service Providers to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) are enclosed at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d) The Government has assessed the need to augment telecom infrastructure to provide internet services upto Gram Panchayats and the BharatNet project has been planned to be implemented in 3 phases for this purpose. This project has been planned to establish the network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis.

Under first phase of the BharatNet project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground OFC by March 2017. Under second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by December, 2018. Future proof network with ring topology between districts and blocks and blocks and GPs will be implemented in Phase-III.

As on 29.01.2017, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid to 76,089 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with a total length of 1,72,257 Kms. Out of these, 16,355 GPs have been provided with broadband connectivity.

The augmentation of telecom infrastructure to provide internet services in cities and towns is left to the telecom service providers for their commercial decision and it is expected that competition in the market will drive them to roll out networks which provide better internet service.

Present status of service area-wise internet subscribers, as on 30.09.2016, as reported by Service Providers to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is enclosed at Annexure-II. Village, town and city wise details are not maintained.

(e) In addition to above, Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services. This will enable the telecom service providers to roll-out 3G and 4G services which will improve availability of quality internet facilities to enable the people to easily access digital applications.
Annexure-I

Service Area wise percentage Internet Subscribers (mobile+landline) per 100 population as on 30th September, 2016

<pre>
Service Area Internet subscribers per 100 population
Andhra Pradesh 30.94
Assam 22.20
Bihar 15.26
Delhi 102.89
Gujarat 36.21
Haryana 29.95
Himachal Pradesh 46.12
Jammu & Kashmir 14.25
Karnataka 38.23
Kerala 45.36
Madhya Pradesh
21.27
Maharashtra 38.39
Mumbai
North East 30.88
Orissa 21.21
Punjab 47.35
Rajasthan 24.96
Tamil Nadu 40.93
UP (East) 17.97
UP (West)
Kolkata 27.38
West Bengal
Total 28.77
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Notes:

1. Data/information for Andhra Pradesh includes Telengana, Madhya Pradesh includes Chhatisgarh, Bihar includes Jharkhand, Maharashtra includes Goa, Uttar Pradesh includes Uttarakhand, West Bengal includes Sikkim and North-East includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura states.

Annexure-II

Present status of service area-wise internet subscribers(mobile+landline) per 100 population as on 30th September, 2016

<pre>
Service Area Internet subscribers in million
Andhra Pradesh 27.46
Assam 7.25
Bihar 21.13
Delhi 22.27
Gujarat 23.17
Haryana 8.30
Himachal Pradesh 3.29
Jammu & Kashmir 1.78
Karnataka 23.96
Kerala 16.27
Madhya Pradesh
22.24
Maharashtra 30.62
Mumbai 16.57
North East 4.33
Orissa 9.05
Punjab 14.72
Rajasthan 18.35
Tamil Nadu 29.18
UP (East) 24.50
UP (West) 16.96
Kolkata 10.12
West Bengal 15.94
Total 367.48
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Notes:

1. Data/information for Andhra Pradesh includes Telengana, Madhya Pradesh includes Chhatisgarh, Bihar includes Jharkhand, Maharashtra includes Goa, Uttar Pradesh includes Uttarakhand, West Bengal includes Sikkim and North-East includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura states.